

# ⚡ Sanctuary ⚡

A bi-monthly newsletter on asylum, refugee and migrant matters from a religious perspective  
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## OVERVIEW

**Asylum Applications** for the two months, March (167) and April (161), 2010, totalled 328.

**First Instance:** Of 398 applications processed in March/April '10, some 5 applicants were recognized as refugees at *first instance* and some 255 applicants were refused following interview. A further 106 refusals relate mainly to cases *withdrawn/deemed withdrawn*. Some 32 applicants were returned to the EU country to which they first arrived, to have their case processed there (*Dublin II Reg*).

**Appeal Stage:** Of 485 *Substantive Appeals* processed in March/April'10, some 27 appellants were recognized as refugees, 432 were refused and 27 appeals were withdrawn.

**Top Countries of Origin** of new asylum applicants in March/April '10: Nigeria: 23%; Pakistan: 10%; China: 9%; Afghanistan: 5%; Ghana: 4%.

**Backlog** of unprocessed cases at 30 April 2010: 2,220 (*First Instance:471; Appeals: 1,749*).

**Removals** -1 Jan-30 April 2010: Some 292 Deportation Orders were *signed* and, of those, 113 were *effected* (ie 113 people removed from the country). In the same period there were 140 *Voluntary Returns*.

**Leave to Remain** - In the first 4 months of '10, some 222 people were granted LTR in the country.

**Family Reunification (FR):** New applications in March/April totalled 59 (with 108 dependants).

Some 71 applications (141 dependants) were processed to completion (ie. report sent to Min. Justice).

**FR applicants - top countries of origin**, Mar/Apr'10: Sudan:16%;Somalia:11%; Iraq:9%;Afghanistan: 8%;Nigeria: 6%

**Direct Provision** – 16/05/10; **Centres:** 45; **Residents:** 5,836, in 19 cos; 776 in Mosney; 321 in Ballyhaunis; 200-300 in 9 centres (Athlone, Clondalkin, Cork x 2, Galway x 2, Knockalishen, Monaghan, Sligo); 100-200 in 7 centres and from 5 - 92 people in 27 centres.

**Self-Catering:** 4 Centres - Dublin, Ballaghaderreen, Dundalk, Mallow. **Capacity:** 412 people; **Residents:** 280. **Reception Centre** (1) - Baleskin. **Capacity:** 369; **Residents:** 280. (Stats: Dept of Justice, Equality and Law Reform)

## CHURCH

**Europe of persons in movement... Overcoming fears...Outlining prospects** - the CCEE European Migration Congress (Malaga, 27 April -1 May 2010), brought together representatives of Bishops' Conferences from some 20 European countries. Its final message addresses migrants...*our migrant brothers and sisters in Europe, [we] welcome you because we believe that every human being has the right to be received. We do not dwell on your origin, your religion or your culture: you are valued and loved by God. ...Those who are working side by side with you are well aware that you know about fear, uncertainty & precariousness. ...We wish to confirm ...our solidarity with regard to your desire for a more human and dignified life for yourselves and those you hold dear. We reject any kind of debate on exclusion, & state our intention to build the future of Europe together... [it] cannot be built without you.* (www.ccee.ch)

## EU and NATIONAL ISSUES

**EU Integration Ministers** met (Spain, 15-16 April) to discuss integration policies, including access to employment. With the revision of European common rules on reception conditions for asylum seekers, EU governments now have the opportunity to agree on rules that facilitate access to the right to work for people waiting for their asylum claim to be decided. ECRE Sec Gen, B.Vandvik, said: *It is difficult to understand why governments seem more willing to force skilled, motivated workers to rely on benefits instead of allowing them to work to support themselves and their families, and pay taxes.*

**Stockholm Programme Action Plan 2010-2014** - The European Commission **Action Plan** proposals (20 April 2010) include the development of a common methodology to reduce disparities in asylum decisions within the framework of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the assessment of the legal and practical implications of joint processing of asylum applications within the EU. **France** - According to a recent report published there, asylum requests in France have increased by 12% in '09, compared with '08. In EU, France has the highest % of arrivals of new asylum seekers.

**Concern about rising xenophobia** - UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antoni6 Guterres has

expressed concern about rising xenophobia towards asylum seekers. *Unfortunately*, he said, *we are witnessing the emergence of xenophobic feelings. ... Populist forces make campaigns against foreigners and, in political campaigns, use foreigners as a scapegoat for their country's problems.*

European Council on Refugees & Exiles (ECRE) Weekly Bulletin - April 2010 [www.ecre.org](http://www.ecre.org)

**House Rules and Procedures** - The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) has recently published the English-language version of the revised edition of this booklet for residents of Direct Provision Reception and Accommodation Centres. In a briefing (20 May '10) to representatives of the Churches' Asylum Network (CAN), RIA explained that the main changes relate to the use of language which is now more reader-friendly and to presentation, rather than to the substance of the rules/procedures which remains largely unaltered. The booklet is being translated into 11 languages - to be available end-June.

Available [www.ria.gov.ie](http://www.ria.gov.ie) and hardcopies from RIA - Lo-call 1890 777727 and [RIA\\_Inbox@justice.ie](mailto:RIA_Inbox@justice.ie)

**At EMBRACE AGM & Spring meeting** (18 May '10), Denise Wright was elected Chairperson and EMBRACE's new development worker, Aneta Dabek, was introduced. Maura McCallion, *Law Centre NI*, gave an overview of why foreign nationals may become destitute, and Sandra Moore, *Welcome Organisation*, gave a presentation on the reality of destitution in Belfast and her experience with clients who have no recourse to public funds. A fact-finding exercise is scoping the extent of need which charities and public bodies are trying to address, in order to help the Stormont administration assess the size of a possible crisis fund. EMBRACE plans an open follow-up meeting, 22 June. [embraceni.org](http://embraceni.org)

**The NGO Alliance Against Racism** (NAAR) is compiling a Shadow Report in response to the Irish Government's (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) Report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). NGOs, minority ethnic-led groups, organisations/ individuals now have an opportunity to provide feedback to the UN on issues relating to racism in Ireland. cf Marian Tannam, [justiceop@eircom.net](mailto:justiceop@eircom.net)

**Campaign for the Right to Change Employer** - *Binding a worker to one employer under the current employment permits system is, according to Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, a leading factor in the exploitation of migrant workers. ... [It] is also a major cause of workers becoming undocumented...* MRCI invites people to support its campaign by writing to Mr Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 23, Kildare St, D.2 - sample letters on [www.mrci.ie](http://www.mrci.ie) Cf [info@mrci.ie](mailto:info@mrci.ie) - tel 01 8897570

## RESOURCES

**Trafficked** - Irish film, written/directed by Ciaran O'Connor, this urban drama stars Ruth Negga as Taiwo, a young woman brought to Ireland by human traffickers - on general release from May 2010.

**A Sikh Face in Ireland**: Photographic and Life History Project, produced by FOMACS with Glenn Jordan and Satwinder Singh : 7 May - 18 July 2010, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle.

**Irish Churches' Affirmations on Migration, Diversity and Interculturalism** - formally endorsed by the Irish Churches, this document which includes 10 Affirmations will be launched on Mon 21 June, 11 a.m, to honour World Refugee Day - Dublin Co Council Civic Offices, Wood Quay.

Info: Adrian Cristea, Parish Integration Programme (PIP) - [adrian@iccsi.ie](mailto:adrian@iccsi.ie); tel 01 2690951

**New Migrations, New Challenges**: Wed 30 June - Sat 3 July; Trinity Immigration Initiative conference, to debate global/national implications of new migration flows for sending & receiving countries and for migrants themselves.

Info: [soritonl@tcd.ie](mailto:soritonl@tcd.ie), <http://www.tcd.ie/immigration/conference2010/index.php>

**And You Welcomed Me - migration and Catholic social teaching** - D. Kerwin & Jill Marie Gerschutz (Eds), Lexington Books, 2009, pp.164, €19.95...*accessible treatment of the complex phenomenon of migration. Covering...economic development, human rights, sovereignty & immigrant integration ...*

## TO PONDER

*...a theology of migration is a way of speaking about of the significance of the Incarnation in light of the issues of contemporary society and the injustices of the current global economy. The Incarnation has much to say about a God who crosses borders in order to forge new relationships, and the challenge to all human beings to do the same. ...from a Christian perspective, sovereign rights are subject to a larger vision of human rights, the common good, the kingdom of God and the gratuity of God. A theology of migration underscores that in the final analysis the human and relational costs far outweigh the economic ones.*

*And You Welcomed Me - migration and Catholic social teaching*

Eds Donald Kerwin & Jill Marie Gerschutz, Lexington Books, 2009, p 19

For further info on items in this newsletter, contact Sr. Joan Roddy, Refugee & Migrant Project Director

SANCTUARY can now be accessed at [www.catholicbishops.ie/refugees](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/refugees)